

# FACT SHEET | Increasing Wages for Quality Care

*Budget for a Better Minnesota*

Governor Dayton believes the hard-working Minnesotans who care for our parents, grandparents, and friends and relatives with disabilities should be paid fairly. Governor Dayton supports a 5 percent pay increase for home care workers this session in addition to the 1 percent increase that was signed into law last year. This bipartisan proposal would help home care workers continue to provide quality care that helps Minnesotans stay in their homes.

## Supporting Minnesota's Home Care Professionals

- **First Wage Increase Since 2009.** Before Governor Dayton signed legislation last year increasing the homecare worker reimbursement rate by 1%, Minnesota's home care professionals had not received a pay increase in four years. Increasing the rates of home care providers 5% this year will give these professionals a 6% increase over the biennium.
- **Stagnant Wages During the Great Recession.** From 2007 to 2011, Minnesota's provider reimbursement rate rose by less than 2%, while inflation increased by more than 10%. These declining wages created significant hardships for home care providers – straining their ability to care for our parents, grandparents, and friends and relatives with disabilities.
- **Providing High-Quality Care.** Low wages have forced many home care professionals in Minnesota to find second jobs and positions in higher paying industries. Raising the wages that home care workers receive will help attract and maintain a high-quality workforce – helping improve the lives and care options of elderly Minnesotans and people with disabilities.
- **Care Providers Perform Many Important Roles.** Minnesota home care professionals provide many important services such as health care, food preparation, employment support, and crisis management. Their services help Minnesotans live longer, healthier, more independent lives.
- **Keeping Minnesotans In Their Homes.** Many Minnesotans and people with disabilities prefer to stay in their homes, if possible. Ensuring our most vulnerable friends, neighbors, and loved ones have access to high-quality home care helps them live more independently, and avoid other costly and restrictive settings.

## Home Care Worker Wage Increase – By the Numbers

5%	Increase for home care providers supported by Governor Dayton
6%	Total increase supported by the Governor over the biennium
74,100	Minnesotans with disabilities who receive home care assistance
34,860	Older Minnesotans who receive home care assistance
86,500	Minimum number of homecare workers who will benefit from the increase
\$10,864/yr.	State savings when a Minnesotan with disabilities receives care at home compared to an institutional setting
\$19,877/yr.	State savings when one elderly Minnesotan receives care at home compared to an institutional setting